

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOC CONCERN OVER ICAO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

1. ACCORDING TO A.W.J. ROBERTSON, DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, EXTAF, THE MAJOR CANADIAN CONCERN WITH ICAO AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE FUTURE HEADQUARTERS ARRANGEMENTS. GAMMA PROPERTIES, OWNER OF THE BUILDING WHICH ICAO OCCUPIED LAST FALL, IS IN OR ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY. GOC HAS GUARANTEED ICAO'S LEASE, BUT IT NOW DOES NOT APPEAR THAT ICAO IS PROTECTED ADEQUATELY SHOULD OWNERSHIP CHANGE. GOC, ROBERTSON POINTED OUT, PICKS UP 85 PERCENT OF THE RELEVANT COSTS AND IN VIEW OF ITS OWN PRESENT FISCAL STRINGENCIES MAY NOT BE ABLE TO INCREASE ITS EXPENDITURES UNDER THIS HEADING. INTERAGENCY GROUP CURRENTLY STUDYING THREE OPTIONS WITH A VIEW TO MAKING RECOMMENDATION FOR CABINET MEETING FEBRUARY 26: (A) PICK UP ANY INCREASE IN RENT, (B) PURCHASE THE BUILDING FOR ICAO USE (IN THEORY, THE PREFERRED APPROACH), AND (C) DECLINE TO INCREASE ITS EXPENDITURES AND RISK MOVEMENT OF HEADQUARTERS (PROBABLY TO VIENNA). ROBERTSON UNABLE PREDICT WHAT GOC WILL DECIDE AND INDICATED AFTER DECISION IS TAKEN (PARTICULARLY IF (A) OR (B) ARE

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ELECTED) AY NOT BE ABLE COMMUNICATE (EVEN TO USG)

SIGNIFICANT DETAILS AS THIS MIGHT UNDER CUT OTHER GOC
EFFORTS AT ICAO BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS.

2. COMMENT; OPTION (C) IF ADOPTED WILL LIKELY NOT SIT
WELL WITH QUEBEC FACTION IN COMMONS LIBERAL PARTY
CAUCUS. ICAO HEADQUARTERS REPRESENTS, WE UNDERSTAND,
A \$12 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO MONTREAL ECONOMY.
ENDERS

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